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worthy of the great occasion. A report of the Springfield celebration including all speeches and addresses in full, will be printed by the State of Illinois under the auspices of the Lincoln Centennial Commission, appointed by Governor Deneen and of which Hon. James A. Connolly is chairman.

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THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY RE-  
CEPTION ON THE EVENING OF THURSDAY,  
FEBRUARY 11, 1909, IN COMMEMORATION  
OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY  
ANNIVERSARY OF ABRAHAM  
LINCOLN.

As the great centennial day, the 12th of February, was to be filled with great and important functions, the Illinois State Historical Society decided to open its rooms to the public, on the evening of February 11th, the day before the Birthday Celebration. Accordingly the precious books, pictures and manuscripts relating to Lincoln and his contemporaries were carefully arranged and exhibited, that the public might conveniently examine its stores of treasures. The wall exhibit consists of a manuscript and pictorial life of Lincoln in nineteen framed cases, beginning with the ancestry of Lincoln and closing with his assassination and death. Above the wall cases there are hanging one hundred and twelve framed pictures; of these forty-four are portraits of Mr. Lincoln, seven are group pictures of Mr. Lincoln and his family; forty-four are portraits of Mr. Lincoln and his personal or official associates, and seventeen are of miscellaneous character relating to Mr. Lincoln. There are in the framed wall cases, fifty-nine cabinet sized pictures of Mr. Lincoln, twenty-eight of which are early or smooth-faced pictures and thirty-one are the later pictures, taken when Mr. Lincoln wore a beard. There are several interesting manuscripts, among them the tally sheet of Mr. Lincoln's first vote, some petitions and surveys, and the original marriage license and

clergyman's return of the marriage, November 4, 1842, of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd.

The large collection of printed books and pamphlets on Lincoln was also exhibited, including the first published life of Lincoln, by John Locke Scripps, a little pamphlet of thirty-two pages, issued in 1860 as a campaign document, and many rare and curious books up to and including more than fifty books and pamphlets published during the past year in anticipation of the centennial celebration. In addition to these were thirty-two pieces of sheet music, songs or instrumental music written in honor of Mr. Lincoln, and twelve Lincoln song books, thirty medals and badges, and countless magazines and newspaper articles. An interesting exhibit is the collection of Lincoln biographies, written in foreign languages. A chair, made from the wood of the Lincoln Home and presented to the late Governor John R. Tanner, was exhibited. This chair was loaned for the occasion by Colonel J. Mack Tanner.

A number of old friends and neighbors of Mr. Lincoln had formed themselves into a little society called the "Lincoln Associates" and they were invited to be with the Historical Society at the reception. About two hundred persons availed themselves of the opportunity of examining the collection of Lincolniana and hearing the remarks of the old friends of Illinois' greatest citizen.

General Alfred Orendorff, President of the Historical Society, being absent on account of sickness, Mr. Reddick Ridgely, the Secretary of the "Lincoln Associates" Society, was asked to preside. Mr. Ridgely called the meeting to order and the Rev. W. N. McElroy offered the invocation. Mr. Ridgely said:

"Friends, we have come together this evening for a little old-fashioned 'love feast.' I did not expect to preside over this meeting. I thought Dr. Willian Jayne, the President of our little Society, was going to preside, but he has gone to Chicago to meet the distinguished party that is coming to Springfield for the Lincoln celebration.

I suppose the Republicans are trying to capture Mr. Bryan and get him to run for president on their ticket. Perhaps if he should yield to their blandishments he might be more successful. We do not expect great flights of eloquence, we want only plain and simple reminiscences, stories of 'Old Abe,' as we knew him, before his greatness had shone out upon the world. I want you all to feel as I felt at a political meeting when General John M. Palmer, as the chairman, introduced me to the audience as his 'young friend,' Reddick Ridgely, and though I was surprised at the Governor's description of me, I determined to earn it; so let us tonight be once more Mr. Lincoln's 'young friends.' I welcome you for the Historical Society and for the Lincoln Associates."

The meeting was a most informal one, without a special program. The principal address was given by Mr. J. McCan Davis. Mr. Paul Selby, of Chicago and Mr. B. F. Shaw, of Dixon, the veteran newspaper men of the State, both friends and associates of Lincoln, were present and responded briefly to calls for them. Mr. Shaw said that he was proud of being an associate and friend of Abraham Lincoln and concerned in the stirring events of those days, the only thing for which he had any regret in such a proud position was the fact that it revealed to his friends the fact that he was getting along in years, but since he had heard the address of the Chairman of the meeting, he was proud to be classed as one of Mr. Lincoln's young friends. Among the speakers were Hon. Andrew Russel, of Jacksonville, Mr. George M. Brinkerhoff, of Springfield, Mr. W. T. Norton, of Alton, Mr. T. J. Crowder, of Springfield, Col. W. T. Baker, of Bolivia, Christian county, Illinois, and Mr. E. W. Cox, of Chicago.

There were present a large number of persons who had known Mr. Lincoln and the descendants of many more of his friends. Mrs. Charles W. Thomas, of Belleville, the daughter of Gov. William H. Bissell, Mr. James H. Roberts, of Chicago, who was born at Kaskaskia, but who

spent his early life in Springfield, Mrs. B. H. Ferguson, the daughter of Judge B. S. Edwards and granddaughter of Governor Ninian Edwards, Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, Secretary of the Illinois State Historical Society, the daughter of Governor John M. Palmer, Mrs. John T. Peters and Mrs. Daniel Hay, daughters of William Lamb, an early resident of Springfield, Mrs. Arthur Huntington, a granddaughter of Jesse K. Dubois, and many others of the families of Mr. Lincoln's associates.

Mrs. Weber, the Secretary of the Historical Society and her associates, Miss Georgia L. Osborne, Miss Jessie F. Scott and Mr. Charles R. Coon, assisted in receiving the visitors and explained to them the features of the exhibit of *Lincolniana*.

Mr. T. J. Crowder presented each of the guests, as a souvenir of the occasion, a copy of Mr. Lincoln's "Address before the Springfield Washingtonian Temperance Society."

The addresses delivered at the reception will be published in full by the State of Illinois, under the auspices of the Lincoln Centennial Commission, which was appointed some months ago and of which Maj. James A. Connolly is chairman, and for this reason they are not printed in the *Journal*.